

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, January 31. 1712.

I Am now upon the Supposition that the Treaty is begun ; the Noise of a Separate Peace, and that *Spain* and the *Indies* shall be quitted to *France*, begins a little to die ; and now it will be left to all the Allies to determin, what *France* shall or shall not have ; for all the Allies are to have Satisfaction in this Treaty. It was an unhappy Question started by an Enemy to this Treaty, *But what if they won't be Satisfied?* For my part, I will not be so unjust to them, to suppose such a Spirit among them — Reason will always satisfy Reasonable People ; Reason will always satisfy an honest Man, for no Man remains ho-

nest, any longer than he will be satisfied with Reason ; Reason is Justice, and he that will not be satisfied with Justice, is a K——e.

But as it shall, I say, be left to the Allies, what *France* or King *Philip* shall have or not have, I wish some-body would tell us what *WE* shall have by this Treaty ; the *Dutch*, the *Portuguese*, the *Savoyards*, the *Emperor*, all these are to have their Share, but I hear no-body talk of what Share *WE* are to have ; I think our Share of the War has been known ; it seems almost Time, Our Share in the Peace should be talk'd of a little ——— Which I have said, as I said last.

say, that I am utterly against putting the *Spanish* Monarchy into the Hands of the Emperor, I am answer'd, That it is necessary to do that, and more if we had it to make the Emperor a Match for *France*; but to this, I desire to start one fair Question, which I hope is not improper to ask, viz.

Whether it is not as just and as fit, for the *Protestants* to desire, that the *British* and *Dutch* should be made a Match for *France*, as the Emperor? Whether it is not as Safe, that a *Protestant* Power should be Erected equal or Superior to *France*, as a *Papish*, especially such a *Papish*, &c. as the Emperor?

I cannot but suppose, that every *Protestant* who has a true Concern for the Prosperity and Safety of Religion, will own this in the general; but the remaining Question will be, How shall this be? Surely it is not impossible; my Answer is in general, by putting the Kingdom of *Spain* and the *Indies*, or some of them, so much in their Power, and making the rest so far depending upon them for Commerce, as that it may be at all Times secur'd entirely in their Interest; and that for whatever Concessions shall be made to *France*, of any of the *Spanish* Dominions (if any) in favour of King *Philip*, such an Equivalent may be given by *France*, as *England* and *Holland* have Reason to Demand.

I shall not descend so to Particulars, as to assume a Proposal of what Partition I would have thus made:—I lay it down as a Foundation, that as at *Ghertrudenbergh* it was resolv'd, for the sake of putting an End to the Effusion of Blood, and to the Calamities of *Europe*, that some part of the *Spanish* Dominions in the *Mediterranean*, should be given to King *Philip*, as *Sicily*, *Sardinia*, &c. so our Scriblers, that whether it can be ended in this Age or the next, will not leave King *Philip* so much as a Grave in the *Spanish* Dominions, must enquire of the late Plenipotentiaries at *Ghertrudenbergh*, for a Reason for that Concession; and they may have good Reason given for it too, no doubt;—Therefore it may be suppos'd, that upon a Treaty now to be made, some

Concessions out of the Monarchy of *Spain*, will still be made to King *Philip*, I say will be, I mean the Allies will Agree to do it—He that is for carrying on the War absolutely, as long as the Emperor pleases to bid us, and making no Peace till *Philip* must go Home, a *Refugee* to *Paris*, whether he finds this to be done in one Year more, or 20 Years more, I am not talking to him.

But this I say, whatever Concessions are thus to be made to King *Philip*, should be Circumstanced, if possible, in this manner; and I offer to make it appear they may be so Circumstanc'd; 1st. That they should be Separated in Interest from the Dominions of *France*; and 2^{dly}. That an Equivalent be given by *France*, to the *English* and *Dutch*, for those Concessions—And that I may not seem to talk here so much Nonsense as some People pretend to, I'll make one Step for an Example; and this is to assert, That there are Equivalents both for us to ask, and for *France* to grant to the Confederates, for every Thing King *Philip* shall be allow'd to possess.

I observe our People are cutting out large Barriers for the *Dutch*, and who disputes that Point with them; it is meet, the whole *Low-Countries*, whether in their Possession or in the Emperor's possession, should be so order'd; as to be effectually a Barrier for the *Dutch*, and for us too; for *Flanders* is a Barrier to us, as well as to them; but I have not heard one Word put in yet, to secure us a good Barrier, as I noted once before, for our Colonies, and preventing the Destruction of our flourishing Plantations in *America*; our People have entertain'd such Party-Aversions to the Trade to the *South-Sea*, and that too, if I may speak my Mind, more upon the Account of Persons than Things; that really, I think, they seem to look upon all we possess in *America*, with an Air of Disregard and Neglect.

What signifies *Canada* to us, said a Merchant to me that once knew better; I look on it only as a Branch of the *South-Sea* Project, I am not sorry at all, that our Design against it is Miscarried? But to such People, that

that know the Wealth and Strength of this Nation is founded upon Commerce; to those People that know, That the Prosperity of our Colonies is our own Prosperity; That all the Wealth of our Plantations is our Wealth; their Strength our Strength, and that the Preservation of them is as Essential to us, as it is Essential to us that we should Trade; to those that know, that from these Colonies we really draw every Year an immense Wealth; That they Maintain our Navigation, Nurse our Seamen, and supply great Numbers; that from their Produce is rais'd a prodigious Revenue to the Government; That they are the most Capital Article in the Exportation of our Manufacture, and by Consequence, in Employment of our People at Home, Consumption of our Wool and Provisions, and thereby of keeping up the Value of our Lands; They, I say, who know this, must know, That the Preservation of these Colonies is as Necessary to Us, as the Preservation of the Possession of Plunders, &c. is Necessary to the Dutch; and it is but just, to let it take up some of our Thoughts at the Ensuing Treaty.

Again, those who know that the French, by their Possession of the Great Gulf of St. Lawrence, and the River of Canada; are thereby Situated on the back of all our Colonies on the Continent of America, even from that of New-England, to the Southernmost Part of Virginia: Those that know, that by this Situation they not only prohibit our Commerce, and straighten our People, but raise rebellions, Wars, and Combinations against us, among the Indians, with whom, as well as by whom, at the Instigation of the French, frequent Invasions and Depredations, Murders, Burnings, Plunderings, and all the Violences of War are Committed, and the English expos'd very often to the Barbarities of the Savage Nations, who are supply'd with Arms and Ammunition by the French; That several Flourishing Settlements of the English have been Ruin'd by the French on that side, and the English quite Supplanted and Re-

mov'd, and that the rest may be in Danger of the like Fate in Time; nay, if you please to look into your Daily Prints, you will find several Eruptions of the Savages, Arm'd and Supply'd by the French; several Villages destroy'd, several Inhabitants burnt alive, and others carried away to be Murder'd in the Woods, perhaps to be sacrificed to the Devil, from the Plantations up in the Country adjoining to New-York and New-England, and this since the Miscarriage of our Fleet there: Those, I say, who know this, will find Reason to think that it may be worth our while to Concern ourselves for such a Barrier in the Ensuing Treaty, as may not only remove the French from that Quarter of the World, where they are very Powerful, but may strengthen England by the Possession of so fine a Colony, & Foundation of a prodigious Trade, and of a vast Addition of Strength to this Nation.

Those that know these Things, will no longer wonder that her Majesty Equip'd a Fleet of such Force, and Shipp'd such a Body of Troops, as lately were Employ'd to Attempt that Place; since, were I to make the Estimate of the Value, as well as the Advantage of such a Conquest, England, as to her own Share in it, ought at any time to give up ten of the best Towns in Flanders to obtain it.

If any Man ask me what Pretence we have to this Claim, that it should be made by Equivalent, I refer him to a small Treat lately Publish'd by Mr. Dummer, Agent for the People of New-England, Entitled Where he will find prov'd at large, and in an Unanswerable manner, That our Title to that Colony is unquestion'd; That it was Originally English, and only basely given up to the French, when this Nation was so under the Influence of French Counsels, and Infatuated with French Bribes, that no Scruple was made to raise the Greatness France at the English Expence — So that it was a Rape upon the English Property, and ought to be restor'd to us — Nor should I grutch to give

give a good spell out of the *Spanish* Monarchy to obtain it.

Next, if we want to demand an Equivalent for any Concessions to *France*; What think you of the *French* Restoring to us the *New-found-land* Fishery, and our Settlements there? A Thing of too much Consequence to Treat on here: These are two Demands which are not at all Partitions of the Monarchy of *Spain*, but which I won-

der those People who are for gaining so much for the Emperor, never thought of; and as these Things are of so vast Importance to Us, who have been at so great an Expence in this War, I know not why some Care should not be taken for our own Interests, as well as all for the Emperor.

I shall go a Step farther in my next.

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